



# The New Midlander



February 2019 Number 289

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## Mark Rollason

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sudden and unexpected death of Mark Rollason, at the relatively young age of 53. Mark suffered a severe and sudden heart attack and died in his sleep. Mark was Treasurer of the Midland Philatelic Federation, taking over from Colin Riddell when he had to retire for health reasons (see Obituary for Colin in this issue of the New Midlander). Mark was also historian of the Coventry Stamp and Postcard Club, a role which he volunteered to take on when the archives were in a mess. He spent a considerable amount of time scanning the earliest documents that we in existence about the founding of the society and put these onto memory sticks for those interested. He was also treasurer of the British Banking History Society. Mark was more interested in cheques than stamps but had recently started putting together collections of the Channel Islands and trying to fill a George VI album which he had purchased half full.

Mark was the longest serving member of the Coventry society, having joined as a junior. He missed attending for a number of years when he worked in London as a Civil Servant but had returned to the society when his job changed.

Mark will be much missed by the Society as well as by the MPF. He was one of that rare breed, someone who volunteered to do things rather than sitting telling everyone else how to do it. He will be hard to replace.

For those interested, his funeral takes place on Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.15 at Canley Crematorium, Cannon Hill Chapel.

## Yet more sad news

It is also with great sadness that the Midlands Philatelic Society have to announce the recent deaths of a number of active members in this region. All those mentioned gave displays to other societies and were active committee members of local societies, the MPF and also assisted at Midpex and other fairs.

Redditch society have lost Robin Jarman (Secretary), Lyel Swingler (Packet Secretary) and Ralph Richardson.

Worcester Society have lost Michael Young.

## **VOLUNTEER WANTED**

With the death of Mark Rollason, the Midland Philatelic Federation is looking for someone willing to volunteer to become treasurer for the Federation. This isn't an onerous task and requires someone happy to collect cheques from affiliated societies, bank them and write cheques as required by the Committee.

If you want more information then contact Steven Harrison, Chairman or Ken Flint, Secretary. Please give this serious consideration.

## **MIDPEX 2019 is getting closer**

Midpex will take place in July 2019. The venue will be the Warwickshire Event Centre near Leamington Spa where previous shows have been held. Planning is in the early stages but the committee has already met and invites to dealers and specialist societies sent out. If a specialist society that you are a member of has never attended, why not ask them to attend this unique stamp fair.

Two meeting rooms will once again be available for any society which wishes to hold a meeting.

Date July 6<sup>th</sup> 2019. Provisional opening and closing times 10 am -4.30 pm.

As usual a free shuttle bus from Leamington Station will run but for those coming by car, parking is still plentiful and free.

Refreshments are available all day.

## Chairman's Update

I have to start this update on a very sad note. Mark Rollason, who was the MPF treasurer, died very suddenly on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Mark was only 53. Over the time, I knew him he became a good friend and was an individual who was very willing to help organised philately, particularly in the Midlands, giving his time generously. I will miss Mark as a member of the MPF committee and also as a friend.



From a practical point of view, the MPF now needs a new treasurer. This is a vital role in the running of the Federation. If there is anyone who would consider taking on this role, please do contact me - my contact details are at the end of this update.

On a brighter note, we have Stampex to look forward to, as usual being held at Islington's Business Design Centre in London, 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a special exhibit from 56 members of the Royal Philatelic Society London on the theme of "King George V". This special exhibit forms part of the celebrations by the Royal to mark its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

Later in the year on 6<sup>th</sup> July, we also have MidPex to look forward to! Do put the date in your diary! The organisers of the event have said that the July show is almost already fully booked with around 65 dealers and 45 specialist societies and study groups attending.

July may, at the moment, seem a long way away. Before then we have the MPF Spring Convention - this will again be held at the Benn Hall in Rugby on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. I would encourage all MPF societies to think about entering the Inter-Society competitions (9 sheet) which will be held at the convention. 19<sup>th</sup> May again sounds a long way off, but it takes time to put a competition entry together!

As always in this update, I would ask everybody if there are things that the MPF should be doing for the hobby, for the local member or the local society which it is not at the moment. I really do want to hear from you - either from societies or from individuals. Email me at [sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com) My postal address is 56 Woodberry Drive, Sutton Coldfield, B76 2RH - I really do want to hear from you!

## REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

If you want to see your favourite items shown in the New Midlander then please send me a short article which I can include. It doesn't take long to write a few words and to send a scan of the item(s). Thanks are due to Mike Parker of Stroud Society who sent in the article in this issue.

### **Obituary – Colin Riddell**

Colin spent his early years until the age of 15, in a Church of England children's home at Ashbourne, Derbyshire. This difficult, but happy, start to his life however had one lasting benefit, all of the children were given stamp albums, and whilst most quickly discarded them, Colin persevered and thus a lifetime hobby was launched. Returning to support his mother when he was 15, Colin focussed his collecting interests on forming a collection of GB QV surface printed issues, something he



developed until he reached the age of 30. During this period he had joined the Burton-on-Trent Philatelic Society and it was as a result of this that an auction lot of a WWII airman's correspondence from Cocos Keeling Island caught his eye. Following the purchase of this lot it was a short step to joining the Forces Postal History Society, where began a friendship with Ken Ratheram, one of their experts whose interests also included Cocos Keeling Island in the Indian Ocean.

All other aspects of Colin's collection were now relegated and he progressively became the "philatelic" King of Cocos Keeling, building not only on Ken Ratheram's collection but subsequently also that of Derek Clayton, supplemented with material associated with Ralph Leigh-Parkin, the postal agent for the island between 1949 and 1951. Colin appreciated the additional benefits which accrued from membership of a specialist society, and the contact this brought with others with similar interests. Finding that other societies did not provide this support, he decided to approach the Pacific Islands Study Circle to see if he could find a "home". At the time I was serving as Chairman of PISC and we reacted to his reasoning that, as there were both Cocos (and Christmas) Islands in both the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and if you collected one the chances were that you would collect both. He therefore became a valued PISC member, and Group Leader for this territory. Colin thus formed what was the best collection of Cocos-Keeling postal history in the world. This collection is to be offered for Auction through Abacus Auctions, Australia on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

Colin qualified as an Accountant, working at various times for Marston's Brewery and Pirelli, but starting and finishing with the same firm of chartered accountants. Again our paths crossed, for when I was persuaded to become Chairman of the Midland Philatelic Federation, a totally new committee was needed to reinvigorate its activities and I persuaded Colin to take over the vital role of Treasurer, something he did with his usual undemonstrative expertise. Colin developed a progressive illness which eventually rendered him immobile, and which he bore with his usual fortitude. He passed peacefully away, in the company of Linda, on the evening of Monday 26 November.

Obituary written by Bryan Jones.

The **Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs** are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU.

The fairs are organised by Telford Philatelic Society. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is available adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair then contact Bob Pilkington, Tele: 01299-211737. Email: sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

#### **Next Fairs**

**2019 – April 13<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair**

The Society will be holding its Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair and Exhibition at The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Collingwood Drive is off the A4041 Queslett Road.

Fair opens at 10.00am and continues until 4.00pm.

Car parking at the Centre is free and the Venue is Disabled Friendly.

Dealers will attend with material including Stamps, Postal History, Covers and Postcards. There will also be a display of material from members of the Society to illustrate the wide variety of interests and will include Stamps, Postal History, and Aero Philatelic items. The display will be colour copies of the originals.

Free Admission and Car Parking and Refreshments of tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, and light lunches will be available all day.

Further information about this Fair can be obtained from the Event organiser: -

Mr Steven Harrison Phone 0121 313 0671 Mobile 07979597498

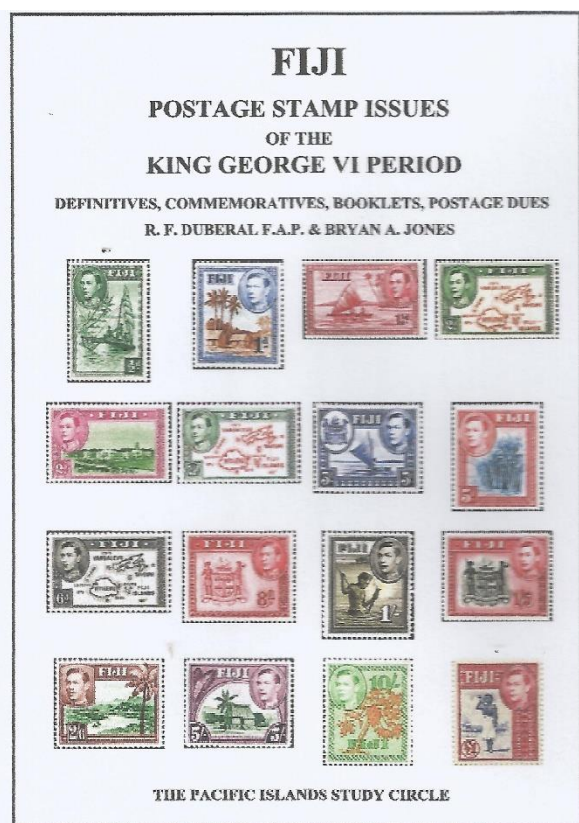
E-mail sharrison500@btinternet.com

#### **REQUEST FOR ARTICLES**

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## **Fiji Postage Stamp Issues of the KGVI Period**



Bryan Jones, of Solihull Society has sent in details of a new publication which he and others have produced for the Pacific Islands Study Circle. Bryan is well known to societies in the Midlands as a regular speaker on Pacific Islands philately as well as being past Chairman of Midlands Philatelic Federation.

The new publication from The Pacific Islands Study Circle which covers in considerable detail the various stamp issues from Fiji during the reign of King George VI, including the pictorial definitives, commemorative issues, postage dues, specimens, booklets, “Cinderella” items and Presentation folders. Comprising 223 pages, A4 size, perfect-bound in card covers and fully illustrated in colour throughout. Wherever practicable examples of the correct usage of the various denominations

are included, together with print quantities and dates, proofs, and identified varieties. Also included are background details leading up to the eventual issue of this, the first Fiji pictorial definitive issue, together with the story behind the wartime 2½d local surcharge.

Separate chapters are included on the Fiji KGVI material held in the Royal collection, including illustrations of some of the key items, and also the equivalent material held in the British Library collection. Much of this material will not previously have been seen by collectors. These chapters provide a written record of the collections. A series of explanatory Appendices is included with the intention of providing further details for the serious collector. These Appendices include detailed plating studies for both the ½d and 1½d values, details of “Cinderella” items produced during this period such as the Fiji Bomber Fund and Gifts to Britain labels, Savings Bank stamps, and wartime “cardboard” currency used for the purchase of stamps.

This publication is based on the award winning collections of Ross Duberal (Australia) and Bryan Jones (UK). The objective was to provide a complete guide to the much studied pictorial definitive issue and its uses, together with other issues of this period. Price (excluding postage) – £25.00. As a special offer to non-members, PISC offer one-year free digital membership (worth £7.50) with this price.

To order e-mail: [booksales@pisc.org.uk](mailto:booksales@pisc.org.uk) with order stating quantity required, and full address for delivery, then await a Paypal invoice to pay and/or a communication from Colin Hinchcliffe.

Bryan Jones

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

### **Birmingham Philatelic Society**

The Birmingham Philatelic Society has announced this week that it is to sell off its entire library which is the largest and most comprehensive outside London. The venue in which it is held has increased its charges over the years making it harder for members to access. The decision was endorsed by members at last year's Annual General Meeting. Initially it is being offered but if you are interested in what is in the Library then please contact the Society for further information (look at the MPF website for contact details).

Alan Spencer

### **Banbury Stamp Society**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Mervyn Benford visited the society with a part of his collection of philatelic material of Hungary. Mervyn explained how he came to own a small collection as a teenager just after the war and that this had developed into a life-long interest in postal history from that country: envelopes, letter, postcards and parcel labels. The evening's display covered the period 1920-1930 when Hungary suffered from rampant inflation. In 1926, the government introduced a new currency, the pengo, in order to try and stabilise the financial market. With it came a new issue of stamps and it was the use of these stamps over a ten-year period that Mervyn illustrated with a wide selection of material. Because of inflation, postage rates rose rapidly and regularly and so there were covers with stamps paying a rate that was only valid for a few months; stamp shortages meant that as well as a re-printed issue with slight design changes, there were also many overprints and surcharges, sometimes both. Mervyn had covers which showed all of these and was able to explain which stamps were being used and what rate was being purchased.

In the second half, we were introduced to government mail. For a period, government mail was sent unstamped with the recipient expected to pay the postage. In order to keep the accounts correct, stamps were still needed and so a special postage due was required. Another short lived experiment was to set a flat rate for government mail up to 100g – but the 'standard' rate was still cheaper for some types of mail, so Mervyn had examples of both of these.

The display finished up with a selection of air-mail material from 1918 through to 1950.

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Simon Richards visited the society with a part of his collection of philatelic material of Dominica. As always, we started with a mini lesson in geography and history. Dominica is in the Caribbean in the Leeward Islands and was discovered during the second voyage of Christopher Columbus. It lay unoccupied for 250 years but during the Seven Years War it became strategically important and fell under British rule. One of the first covers in Simon's presentation was from the 1760's and is one of the earliest known pieces of colonial mail from Dominica. The French

occupied the island during the wars with America and there was scarce material on display from this period.

Dated postmarks were introduced in 1798 at the request of Lloyds of London who were worried that insurance policies were being taken out after a ship had been lost – dated post meant that Lloyds could keep a check on this. The 1840's saw postage rate reform with pre-payment indicated by a crowned circle postmark – mail could still be sent with postage to be collected from the recipient. British stamps were also available in the colony to pre-pay postage, although this only lasted two years before the crowned circle was re-introduced. Dominica finally got its own stamps in 1874 and, in order to save money, used a design based on the stamps of St. Kitts. These early issues were short-lived as UPU regulations meant that new colours and values were required but we were shown some scarce usage of the first issues on cover.

Stamp shortages during the late 1800's lead to a number of overprints using surplus stamps as a cost saving. In 1890 Dominica joined a 'federal' Leeward Islands stamp issue and only started its own commemorative issues again in 1903 with the 'Roseau' issue. This continued to 1923 with various paper changes. Simon showed some extensive printer's archive material to illustrate this issue. The second half continued with George V issues, also printed on a number of different papers. Simon explained that this was because Dominica had to buy the paper from the printer and as it was expensive there was an incentive to use it all up.

Simon finished with maritime mail with a link to Canada who ran a fleet called the 'Lady' boats from Halifax to the Caribbean via Boston. As well as carrying the mail, they were popular with Americans during the prohibition period as alcohol was available on board.

The society also met on January 8<sup>th</sup> when members showed their recent acquisitions over a few drinks and nibbles.

Gareth Williams

### **Rugby and District Philatelic Society**

The first half of a very entertaining season of meetings has flown by. In October, John Anthony presented an excellent display on the history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until it started to fall apart in 1918. He highlighted mail from the Kingdom of Lombardo-Venezia and the district of Vicenza, and ample philatelic material produced by Austria in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when philately really took off. At the end of October, Alan Godfrey produced an equally impressive exhibition of early Falkland Islands mail and stamps. To that he added the more pictorial later stamps, postal stationery and aerograms. Late November, we welcomed John Jackson. He started with the story of the definitive Queen Wilhelmina set issued on 1 April 1940, just before World War II which was withdrawn by the German occupying forces in September, invalidated by them in 1944, but then revalidated after Liberation in 1945 with additional values issued. After a break, his focus shifted to the Dutch West Indies, including some rare material from the Dutch West Indies Company. We also had an introductory evening and a social event before Christmas, and members displaying philatelic material under the themes "Anything Goes" and the letters G and H.

Theo Schilderman



## **Nottinghamshire Philatelic Society**

Nottingham PS have sadly had to cancel the annual auction (billed for 9<sup>th</sup> March) due to unforeseen circumstances.

Our Christmas Social again included an Egg Cup Competition, which has been a popular contest since its introduction in 2010. Ten competitors submitted entries on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The winner was our secretary, Sandra Poole. Her entry showed a letter with a penny red stamp, sent in 1853, but incorrectly cancelled as 1835 - before the penny black issue. This was awarded the trophy after a tie breaking decision against the runner up, Bryan Button, with a Belgian Christmas bloc sheet dated 2002. The Egg Cup is a wooden bowl which was carved and presented by Alan Squires in 2014. Competitors submit and may introduce a single sheet with some philatelic content. The winner is judged by popular vote, with the voting preference towards Christmas themes and amusement. We would like to commend this type of competition as an interlude to the Christmas Social gatherings of the philatelic societies. We acknowledge that the idea of this entertainment competition originated in the East Sussex Philatelic Society.

Douglas Harvey

## **South Midlands Stamp Club**



At last we reached the end of the alphabet at our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, with members' displays around the letters X, Y and Z. The displays showed the usual remarkably inventive imaginations of our members as to how their displays constituted themes around these three letters, and their displays were as always interesting, informative and often amusing.

However, the highlight of the meeting came at half time when the raffle was held, and member Peter Pugh, who had faithfully bought his regular ticket, at long last won a prize. His delight as shown in the attached picture shows just how important this was for him, and how much he valued the glamour and taste of the prize.

John Gledhill

## **Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society**

Robert Hill gave us two very separate displays. The first half explored the impact of apartheid on South African postal services. This ranged from special postmarks for the "Non-white" post offices in some designated "locations", to postbuses which had to have separate doors for each ethnicity.

The second half was an extensive collection of picture post cards, found in an album belonging to their young lady recipient. Several dozen post cards were sent to her in Yorkshire by her would-be fiancée working in South Africa from the end of the Boer War till after World War I. Most of the cards included heart-felt recommendations that she would really love to come and join him in the beautiful country and wild animals. Maybe the predominance of photographs of railway bridges put her off. Alas, after 11 years of one-sided correspondence (with frequent pointed sad comments at the shortage of replies) the album was closed. At present Bob Hill is still trying to find out the full story. Did the correspondence stop because they met and married? Had she married and daren't tell him? Maybe there will be a further display when he finds out what happened to them both.

John Gledhill

### **Hinckley and District Philatelic Society**

On October 18<sup>th</sup> Terry Highes gave a talk on US Postal History. Terry started by explaining how he erroneously thought tht the 'Post Station' handstamp related to railway stations but in fact they are the same as one of our post offices (*the same is true in Canada where even more confusing they use the name of the town and station*).

Terry explained that in 1737 Benjamin Franklin became the first Post Master. His display was on a time line commencing in 1775 with an item from Philadelphia relating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress whereby it was agreed to set up a line of postal stations. He then showed an 1838 entire. The first stamps were relaeased in 1847 with images of Franklin and George Washington. In 1855 pre-payment of postage became law and as many postal stations didn't have dated handstamps, cork cancellers were introduced. Terry showed an extensive range of mail whereby the stamps had been cancelled by an array on different designs carved on the cork stopper. He then moved on to the introduction of duplex handstamps including the early trials of rubber duplex handstamps.

The second half commenced with his display showing 'doughnut' datestamps used on airmail and registered letters that was introduced by the International Machine Company. He then showed artistic American Flag datestamps cancels with and without the flagpole and those with numbers in the design. The main display ended with Terry showing machine cancels on mail using machines from the Barry Machine Co., Pitney Bowes and Time Cummins Machine Cancel.

To conclude he explained the American zip code introduced by Franklin D Rossevelt including the first slogan used to advertise its introduction 'IF YOU / LOVE ME / YOU'LL / USE ME'.

Richard Flemming

## SLOVAKIA - MAIL IN A TIME OF TURMOIL

Ever since the break-up of the Austrian – Hungarian Empire at the end of the First World, which resulted in the creation of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia had sort recognition as a separate country. This wish was granted in 1939 when Germany occupied Czechoslovakia and granted Slovak independence. Areas of the south were annexed by Hungary. In April 1945, the country was over ran by the Soviet Red Army and the Hungarian-occupied territories restored to Slovakia which was once again incorporated into Czechoslovakia.

Kosice was a town in the area occupied by Hungary. When this cover was posted in June 1945 postal matters appeared to have been in some turmoil. The letter is addressed within the town. Slovak stamps were invalid at this time and the three values from the 1942 Hinka Youth set (total face value 4Ks) were so indicated by obliterating their values with blue ink - leaving the country name probably to show why they were disallowed. A short payment indicated by a blue pencil 'T'. The Slovak postage due label was still valid because its use was always for post office accounting purposes only. The Czechoslovakian 6Ks stamp (used on the first day of issue) plus the 5ks due label, (for a double deficiency charge of 2.50ks), would indicate a postal charge of 8.5Ks - 1K more than required.

The correct rate was	Postage	2Ks for a letter weighing up to 20g.
	Registration	3Ks
	Express delivery	2.5Ks

Giving a total charge of 7.5Ks.



(Illustration slightly reduced)

Mike Parker, Stroud

### Stamp and Postcard Fair in Alfreton

Alfreton Philatelic Society has informed me that they will be holding a Stamp, Postal History and Postcard Fair on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Genesis Centre, Main Hall, Church Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 7AG. The venue is close to Junction 28 on the M1. There is a bar and refreshments on site and plenty of car parking. The event will run from 10.15 am to 4.00 pm.

### A VOLUNTEER TO SPEAK FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA

Tony Smith is a member of Great Britain Overprints Society and three philatelic societies near his home in Lincolnshire. He was born and raised in Coventry, where my stamp collecting started, and my mother and siblings still live thereabouts. I have a philatelic display "Nauru 1916-1923". With relations still in Coventry, it would be eminently possible for me to give this display to Warwickshire societies. If there are societies who wish to contact Tony then please do so via Ken Flint.

# **KETTERING**

## **Stamp and Philatelic Society**

# **STAMP FAIR**

## **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**ISE LODGE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**St. Vincent's Avenue  
KETTERING  
NN15 5DR**

**Stamps / Collections / Covers  
Postal History / Accessories.**

**Free Entry, Free Car Parking.  
Refreshments**

Easy access from the A14.  
Junction 10 (A6) to Wicksteed Park then via Windmill  
Avenue and Deeble Road to St. Vincent's Avenue.

CONTACT:  
GORDON:-01536 746800  
sbctreg@hotmail.com

**my-stampclub.co.uk**

## SOCIETY DIARY

Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	First to Third Reich	David Shipstone	Nottingham
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Scadta, Air G.B. and B.E.A. Marks	Brian Lythgoe	Rugby
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Postal History of Hereford	Frank Bennett	Gloucestershire
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Members' Night: Up to 18 Sheets	Members	Hinckley
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Letter 'H'	Members	Banbury
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversaries	Members	Coventry
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	South Birmingham Cup	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 16 sheets - Letter "U" or "V"	Members	Solihull
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Morocco Agencies The Cherifien and Local Posts of Morocco	Malcolm Hughes John Smith	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Auction	Members	Hereford
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Competition Evening, Raffle and Quiz Night	Members	Leamington
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Stroud Postcards	Howard Beard	Stroud
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Northamptonshire Miscellany Penguins	Steve Bence Maggie Bence	Redditch
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Spanish Civil War part 2	Ivan Keeling	Wombourne
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	President's Evening		Northampton
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Illustrated or Advertising Covers & Postcards	Members	Midlands GB Postal History
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting	Members	Telford
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Danzig	Giles du Boulay	Leicester
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Presentations	Peter Barnett John Southall	Dudley
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Auction	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Philatelic Quiz	Members	Solihull
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Competition	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Not a Stamp in Sight	Members	Shropshire (afternoon)
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Competition Evening and Quiz	Members	Stratford
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Competition Night	Members	Matlock
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Is Your Heart in Philately?	Members	Loughborough
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 16 Sheets – "Celebrations"	Members	Solihull (morning)
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Committee Display		Derby
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Hong Kong	Mick Britton	Nottingham
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Banbury Society Entertain		Rugby
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Banbury Society Entertain		Rugby
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	The 20's	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Stamps of the Kingdom of Italy	Tony Clayton	Hinckley
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Robson Cup Competition	Members	Banbury
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	King George VI	Bryan Jones	Coventry
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Themed Evening - War	Members	South Birmingham
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting	Members	Solihull
Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Japan	Greg Langford	Leamington

Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Machins – Simplified, Rarefied and Amplified	Andrew Watton	Stroud
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Annual General Meeting / One Sheet Display	Members	Redditch
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Auction	Members	Wombourne
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Dinner	Members	Coleshill
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Origin of the Picture Postcard	Richard Farman	Dudley
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Malaya	P. Cockburn	Solihull
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Antwerp	Bill Pile	South Birmingham
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Judging Competitions at National and Regional Levels	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	My Favourite Philatelic Collection	Members	Shropshire (afternoon)
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mauritius and Oil Rivers	Malcolm Hughes	Stratford
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	15 Sheets and one-sheet Competition	Members	Loughborough
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	British Borneo: Trains, Planes and Stamps	Jon Higgins	Nottingham
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Cup Competitions	Members	Rugby
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Competition	Members	Gloucestershire
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Competitions and Auction	Members	Hinckley
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Dinner	Members	Banbury
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	German States – Ancient and Modern	Mick Webb Terry Kemp	Coventry
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	India	Roni Dahaliwal	South Birmingham
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Korean War British Levant	John Walker Malcolm Hughes	Solihull
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Provisional Great Britain Postal Stationery	John Gledhill	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	The American Continents	Members	Hereford
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Searle Entertains	Colin Searle	Leamington
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chairman Entertains	John Loraine	Stroud
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese Air Mail	Frank Walton	Redditch
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Womborne Stampex	Members	Wombourne
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Postal History – Letters ‘D’, ‘E’ and ‘F’	Members	Northampton
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parcel Post Labels	Members	Midlands GB Postal History
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Any Subject including Recent Acquisitions	Members	Telford
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	TPO’s of Great Britain	Clive Jones	Leicester
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Montenegro	Clive Murray	Dudley
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	One Board of Postcards	Members	South Birmingham
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Napoleon	P. Rooke	Solihull
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Why?	Members	Sutton Coldfield
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chester Philatelic Society Entertain		Shropshire
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	The 60s	Members	Stratford
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dominica	Simon Richards	Matlock
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Visit form Hinckley Society		Loughborough
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 16 Sheets – Letter “H”	Members	Solihull (morning)
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Two Visitors from Notts. P.S.	Sandra Poole David Shipstone	Derby



March 15 <sup>th</sup>	President's Evening	Brian Clayton	Nottingham
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Routes and Rates of Czech Airmails	Garth Taylor	Rugby
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Britain in Europe	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Visit from Leighton Buzzard P.S.		Hinckley
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tasmania	Patrick Reid	Banbury
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Travelling Post Offices	Clive Jones	Coventry
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	West Berlin	Ian Samuel	South Birmingham
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ireland Postal History	S. Challis	Solihull
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Antipodean Trials and Tribulations	Clive Jones	Leamington
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Start of the Great War in West Africa and its Philatelic Consequences	Chris Jackson	Stroud
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Auction Preview	Members	Redditch
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Penny Black Centenary	David Hickman	Wombourne
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	An Afternoon with King George VI	Bryan Jones	Coleshill
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Egypt Postal History from the Early Years	John Davis	Dudley
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Members Evening – Any Subject	Members	South Birmingham
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Early Gibraltar	Bryan Hyner	Solihull
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Letters 'S', 'T' and 'U'	Members	Sutton Coldfield
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	President's Evening		Shropshire
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Society Auction	Members	Stratford
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anglo-Belgian Families at War	Bryan and Mino Button	Loughborough
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Andorra	Gerald Marriner	Rugby
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Auction	Members	Gloucestershire
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Members' Night: Letter "T"	Members	Hinckley
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	British Honduras and British Guiana	Dr Malcolm Hughes	Banbury
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Allied Occupation of Austria 1945-1955	Paul Watkins	Coventry
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lundy Island	Roni Dahaliwal	South Birmingham
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rocks to Riches	A. Stammers	Solihull
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Malta and Czeslaw Slania	Colin Searle	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Latvia 1785 - 1945	Wendy Buckle	Hereford
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society Entertain		Leamington
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Animal, Vegetable or Mineral	Members	Stroud
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual Dinner	Members	Nottingham
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	My Favourite Country	Members	Redditch
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Åland	Bob Hill	Wombourne
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Competitions	Members	Northampton